

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Blackwell, Morton: Files  
**Folder Title:** Vietnam Veterans of America  
(2 of 2)  
**Box:** 53

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: [reagan.library@nara.gov](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

MEMORANDUM

*file*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Vietnam Veterans  
Foundation*

June 8, 1981

TO: GREGORY NEWELL  
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation wants to meet with the President. It is our suggestion that you write a letter declining such a meeting and suggest that possibly a briefing can be arranged, and that you are forwarding the idea of a briefing to our office.

We have not been able to get a Presidential Proclamation as of yet, but if they have an annual meeting, we have been informed by the Greetings Office that they can get a Proclamation for the group.

Thank you.

3/25

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

389-  
2522

Jerry called +

asked about

whether a meeting  
has been scheduled.

If not he will  
coordinate for one  
repper VV org.  
to come to a  
meeting.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 27

TO: CLAUDIA KORTE Room 96

FROM: Kathy Christiansen,  
Morton Blackwell's office  
x. 2657

I believe we discussed this group previously, and I am not sure if you said you could write a proclamation from the President to this group.

Could you please review the letter and let us know if :

1. we can get a Presidential greeting
2. we can get it by June 5, 1981.

Thank you.

Denied 5/28/  
They will issue if this  
group has an  
annual  
meeting

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Would like an  
appointment with  
President 10 min.  
to bring <sup>H.R.</sup> 1139 to his  
attention + Vietnam  
Veterans Recognition Weekend.  
June 6 + 7. May 21 or  
22 until 29<sup>th</sup> (last day)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Follow up on  
Jerry Gates  
request letter to  
Martin  
Vietnam Veterans

---

call scheduling  
office re request

---



**MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL**

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  FTS  
CODE/EXT. \_\_\_\_\_  
 WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU  
 RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Jerry wants to  
pick up greeting  
here to read  
at weekend event*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

63-109

☆ U.S. G.P.O. 1981-341-529/26

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)  
Prescribed by GSA  
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

he got 5/28

He wants a greeting  
to read at meeting

he wants to publish  
the photo of Reagan

w/ a note saying that

a personal greeting

from the President  
be read at the meeting

meeting

So we  
have to  
figure  
out  
how  
to  
handle  
it  
we  
have  
until  
time  
you



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*send to Greg Newell + decline*  
*if briefing OK*

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

June 4, 1981

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: Viet nam Veterans - coordinated with all groups -  
to discuss their concerns with the President

PURPOSE: The Vietnam Veterans supported the President very  
strongly in the past campaign and feel they have not  
received proper recognition. They have many concerns,  
as evidenced during the past few weeks with the hunger  
strike demonstration.

BACKGROUND:

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

DATE: Open, but soon

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: White House'

PARTICIPANTS: All Vietnam Veterans groups; will be coordinated by  
Vietnam Veterans Foundation and by our office

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President will greet group and listen to concerns

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: This could be used very productively by showing that  
the President recognizes the concerns of these veterans.

RECOMMENDED BY: Morton Blackwell

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

*letter sent to Greg Newell*



file

## VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

April 29, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
Special Assistant to  
The Public Liaison  
Room 134  
Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

We at the Vietnam Veterans Foundation will appreciate your assistance in obtaining an audience with President Reagan. It is our understanding that, to date, the President has not had an opportunity to meet with a Vietnam Veterans organization.

Veterans in general turned out in great numbers to support President Reagan in his Landslide Victory; the members of the Vietnam Veterans Foundation were very active in the Veterans for Reagan movement.

On behalf of the 9.5 million veterans of the Vietnam era, we wish to discuss two issues with the President:

1. The Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend schedule for June 6 and 7, 1981 at Summit Point Raceway, in Summit Point West Virginia (near Harpers Ferry).
2. H.R. 1139, The Veterans Business Loan Act of 1981.

I sent a letter to the President concerning Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend on March 27, 1981, (copy enclosed) but have received no response to date.

The Recognition Weekend is however, gaining momentum, to date Senator Robert Byrd has agreed to appear on Sunday June 7 and Governor Rockefeller is providing support at the State level to help give this program the focus it deserves.

As I stated in my letter of March 27, we would appreciate a Presidential Proclamation and some assistance in obtaining a military band. In light of the lack of organization concerning the activity on April 25, we feel an even greater impetus to make the recognition weekend a point of national focus.



2.

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
Special Assistant to  
The Public Liaison

In the first session of the 97th Congress, Congressman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee introduced H.R. 1139, The Veterans Business Loan Act of 1981.

The Bill was referred to both the Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Committees of the House. The act would provide guaranteed and participation loans up to \$200,000 for eligible businesses owned and operated by disabled and veterans of the Vietnam era. The newly created loan program would be administered by the Veterans Administration with financial institutions providing the funds.

Much of the groundwork for formulating this legislation came about through a series of hearings held last year before the U.S. Senate Committee on small business and the House Veterans Affairs subcommittee on investigations and oversight. The hearings showed that the small business administration was not implementing the provisions of P.L. 92-237 which grants "Special Consideration" to Vietnam veterans in all SBA programs.

As a matter of fact, at a hearing chaired by Congressman Montgomery on March 31, 1981 the SBA disclosed that 85% of all SBA resources had gone for minority and women's programs and that veterans programs were covered in the 15% of SBA resources labeled "Others". When Chairman Montgomery asked for a breakout in terms of numbers of veterans the SBA had provided loans to, SBA said they did not have those statistics.

We at the Vietnam Veterans Foundation think it is a gross injustice that the Vietnam veterans of this nation are being denied their entitlements under PL 92-237.

It is a curious paradox that the SBA has been permitted to ignore PL 92-237 since 1976 when, historically, SBA was created in the post Korean war era to administer business loan programs for veterans.

Mr. Tom Wincek, Chairman of VVF and myself are looking forward to your assistance in arranging a meeting with President Reagan to discuss these issues.

Please join with the Vietnam Veterans Foundation to assure that the Vietnam veterans of this nation do not become forgotten relics of an unpopular war.

Sincerely,

Please send response to;

Jerry E. Yates  
c/o The National Press Club  
Washington, D.C. 20045

JERRY E. YATES  
Director, Communication and  
Public Relations

DEMOCRATS

G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, MISS.  
 DON EDWARDS, CALIF.  
 GEORGE E. DANIELSON, CALIF.  
 JACK BRINKLEY, GA.  
 RONALD W. MOTT, OHIO  
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.  
 SAM B. HALL, JR., TEX.  
 DOUGLAS APFLEGATE, OHIO  
 MARVIN LEATH, TEX.  
 WILLIAM HILL BONER, TENN.  
 RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALA.  
 DAN MICA, FLA.  
 THOMAS A. DASCHLE, S. DAK.  
 BOB STUMP, ARIZ.  
 PHIL GRAMM, TEX.  
 AUSTIN J. MURPHY, PA.  
 BYRON L. DORGAN, N. DAK.

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY  
 CHAIRMAN

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
 COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
 335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

REPUBLICANS

JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, ARK.  
 MARGARET M. HECKLER, MASS.  
 CHALMERS P. WYLIE, OHIO  
 ELWOOD HILLIS, IND.  
 TENNYSON GUYER, OHIO  
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.  
 GERALD B. SOLOMON, N.Y.  
 JIM JEFFRIES, KANS.  
 BOB MC EWEN, OHIO  
 JIM DUNN, MICH.  
 CHRIS SMITH, N.J.  
 ALBERT LEE SMITH, ALA.  
 DENNY SMITH, OREG.

May 6, 1981

MACK G. FLEMING  
 STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. Morton Blackwell  
 Special Assistant to  
 The Public Liaison  
 Room 134  
 Old Executive Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

It is my understanding that Mr. Jerry E. Yates, Director of Communications and Public Relations of the Vietnam Veterans Foundation, has written you concerning the possibility of meeting with the President to discuss matters of concern to Vietnam Era veterans.

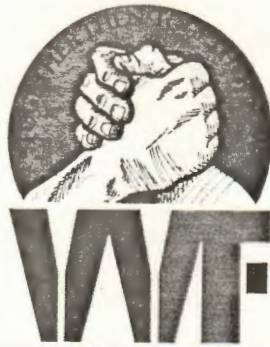
I am aware of the President's busy schedule and certainly understand that it would be asking too much to pursue such a meeting. Therefore, if your schedule would permit, I am sure the people involved would be grateful for a few minutes of your time.

Sincerely,

*G. V. Montgomery*  
 G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY  
 Chairman

*If you don't have the time  
 Don't worry about it.*





## VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

~~Handwritten scribble~~  
The President  
Ronald W. Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation is coordinating a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend on June 6 and 7, 1981 at Summit Point Racetrack in Charlestown, West Virginia.

We are coordinating this overlooked recognition for Vietnam vets through private sector sources and without any Federal funding. We do, however, want the participation of respected national figures such as yourself.

Therefore we are requesting that you issue a Proclamation, proclaiming June 6 and 7 as National Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend.

Recognition Weekend activities will include sports car racing, sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America, skydiving exhibitions, a marching band and Country Music, as well as appearances by guest celebrities.

It is our objective to develop this event into a weekend of National Recognition for the 9.5 million men and women who served their country honorably during a time of internal conflict, while others look away. Mr. President, it would be easy for me to make an emotional appeal for your support and participation, but from your record I know you have already articulated most of what we at the Vietnam Veterans Foundation believe in and are working for. I will, however, provide you with some background concerning the efforts of the Foundation.

The Foundation is a national non-profit, tax exempt Vietnam veterans organization dedicated to assisting disabled, and Vietnam era veterans in the area of small business and economic development. In the last two years its programs have helped thousands of Vietnam veterans get "start up" money for new businesses; reintegrated Vietnam veterans into the economic mainstream of our free enterprise system; and



2.

The President  
Ronald W. Reagan:

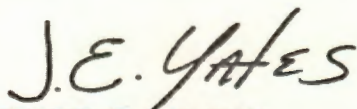
expanded new businesses throughout the United States. The programs and counseling efforts have been sustained by donations from the general public, along with special grants from government agencies; individual donations, and private business.

Historically members of the Foundation have testified before select Senate subcommittees concerning the SBA's lack of support for Vietnam veterans in business, served as advisors to the White House Conference on Small Business and were instrumental in getting support for and developing the First Small Business Fair for disabled and Vietnam vets, which ran concurrently with the National Vietnam Veterans week, proclaimed by the President in 1978.

Most recently the Foundation's members were instrumental in drafting H.R. 1139, The Veterans Business Loan Act of 1981, which was introduced in the first session of 97th Congress by Chairman C.V. (Sonny) Montgomery.

As a final note, we could also use your support in obtaining a military band for the event we are sponsoring June 6 and 7.  
Mr. President, we look forward to your support and if possible your participation in this overlooked and much deserved recognition for our 9.5 million veterans of the Vietnam era.

Respectfully yours,



JERRY E. YATES  
Director, Communication and  
Public Relations

PS: Please send response to

Mr. J.E. Yates  
c/o The National Press Club  
Washington, D.C. 20045





## VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

The President  
Ronald W. Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

March 27, 1981

Dear Mr. President:

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation is coordinating a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend on June 6 and 7, 1981 at Summit Point Racetrack in Charlestown, West Virginia.

We are coordinating this overlooked recognition for Vietnam vets through private sector sources and without any Federal funding. We do, however, want the participation of respected national figures such as yourself.

Therefore we are requesting that you issue a Proclamation, proclaiming June 6 and 7 as National Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend.

Recognition Weekend activities will include sports car racing, sponsored by the Sports Car Club of America, skydiving exhibitions, a marching band and Country Music, as well as appearances by guest celebrities.

It is our objective to develop this event into a weekend of National Recognition for the 9.5 million men and women who served their country honorably during a time of internal conflict, while others look away. Mr. President, it would be easy for me to make an emotional appeal for your support and participation, but from your record I know you have already articulated most of what we at the Vietnam Veterans Foundation believe in and are working for. I will, however, provide you with some background concerning the efforts of the Foundation.

The Foundation is a national non-profit, tax exempt Vietnam veterans organization dedicated to assisting disabled, and Vietnam era veterans in the area of small business and economic development. In the last two years its programs have helped thousands of Vietnam veterans get "start up" money for new businesses; reintegrated Vietnam veterans into the economic mainstream of our free enterprise system; and



2.

The President  
Ronald W. Reagan:

expanded new businesses throughout the United States. The programs and counseling efforts have been sustained by donations from the general public, along with special grants from government agencies; individual donations, and private business.

Historically members of the Foundation have testified before select Senate subcommittees concerning the SBA's lack of support for Vietnam veterans in business, served as advisors to the White House Conference on Small Business and were instrumental in getting support for and developing the First Small Business Fair for disabled and Vietnam vets, which ran concurrently with the National Vietnam Veterans week, proclaimed by the President in 1978.

Most recently the Foundation's members were instrumental in drafting H.R. 1139, The Veterans Business Loan Act of 1981, which was introduced in the first session of 97th Congress by Chairman C.V. (Sonny) Montgomery.

As a final note, we could also use your support in obtaining a military band for the event we are sponsoring June 6 and 7. Mr. President, we look forward to your support and if possible your participation in this overlooked and much deserved recognition for our 9.5 million veterans of the Vietnam era.

Respectfully yours,

JERRY E. YATES  
Director, Communication and  
Public Relations

PS: Please send response to

Mr. J.E. Yates  
c/o The National Press Club  
Washington, D.C. 20045

## United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 14, 1981

Tribute '81 - A Weekend Tribute to Vietnam Veterans  
Mr. Jerry Yates  
4244 Glendale Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

Dear Friends:


It is indeed not only an honor, but also a great privilege for me to pay tribute to each of you all.

America owes immeasurable debt to you and the some three million Vietnam veterans who sacrificed part of your youth and some of the best years of your lives for your country. The mental and physical sacrifices which you made must never be forgotten. Your exemplary efforts are a tribute to the American spirit. You were soldiers who did not question your country's policies, you asked nothing in return, and you served willingly and nobly.

While the war itself has been, and will continue to be the subject of ongoing controversy by historians, it would be a grave error to let that controversy overshadow the spirit with which you fought for your country. That indomitable American spirit always overshadows doubts of contemporary policy. We need only remind ourselves of conflicts such as that which took place in Korea, a relatively unfamiliar area of the globe where thousands of Americans lost their lives and many more returned with the scars of war. Their battles, just as yours, were not entwined with storybook tales of glory. Yet each served their country faithfully and without hesitation.

Vietnam veterans deserve this country's highest recognition, and I am proud to have the opportunity to offer these words of praise to each and every one of you. You are all heroes, and America is forever indebted to you. We can never repay that debt, but we must always attempt to do so.

Sincerely,



Howard H. Baker, Jr.



G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY  
3RD DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

2184 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
AREA CODE (202) 225-5031

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301  
AREA CODE (601) 893-8681

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
JACK VANCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

May 6, 1981

Mr. Jerry Yates  
4224 Glendale Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

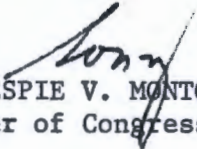
Dear Jerry:

Per your recent discussion with Andre, I have enclosed a statement for the souvenir magazine that will be published in connection with the salute to Vietnam Veterans in West Virginia. I appreciate your giving me an opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile event.

I am sorry that my schedule will not permit me to join with you on June 6 and 7, but I know Senator Byrd will bring a very inspiring message of tribute to our Vietnam Veterans.

My best wishes for a very successful weekend of recognition.

Sincerely,

  
GILLESPIE V. MONTGOMERY  
Member of Congress

GVM:ac  
Enclosures

"I would like to commend those responsible for organizing this well deserved tribute to the valiant men and women who served their nation so ably during the Vietnam Era. And I join with them in recognition of this special group of veterans.

Probably more than any other Member of Congress, I learned firsthand of the sacrifices made by the men and women who served in Vietnam. Eight different times while U. S. troops were engaged in combat in Southeast Asia I went to visit with them, seven of these times during the Christmas season.

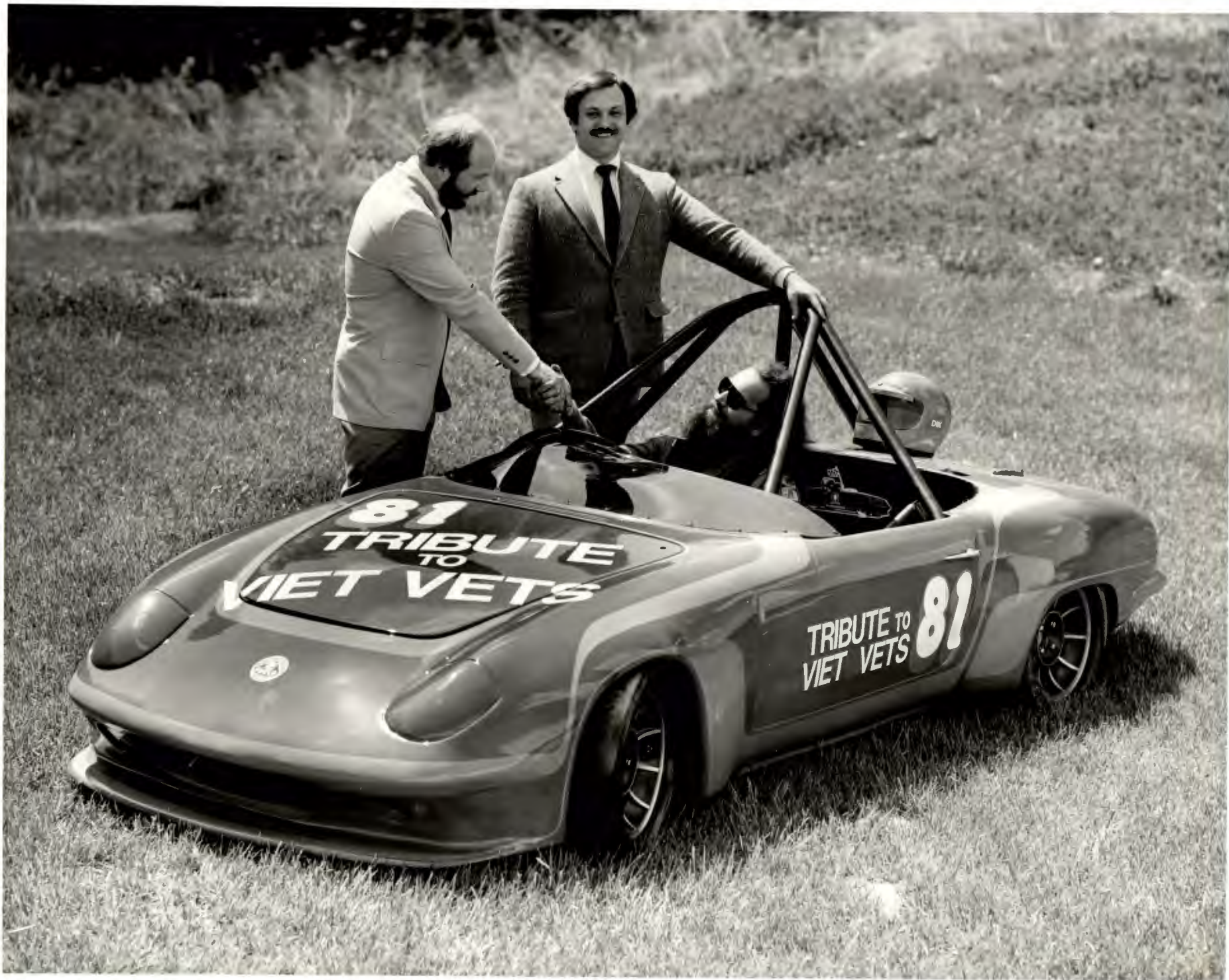
These personal visits with the troops gave me a deep appreciation of their heroism and dedication. Without fail, our Vietnam service personnel were just as good in fulfilling their assigned mission as were their fathers and uncles in World War II and Korea.

We presently have about nine million veterans in civilian life who served in the Vietnam era. Of these, 32 percent or 2.9 million saw service in the Vietnam Theatre of operations. And quite contrary to the impression sometime given of the Vietnam veteran, fully 96 percent of all Vietnam veterans were separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions.

Those who participated in the Vietnam conflict risked their lives on behalf of freedom and the honor of their country. And after serving with distinction, they have returned to their local communities where they have continued to be productive and contributing members of society on behalf of their fellow citizens.

As Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee I am committed to doing what I can to provide for the needs of our Vietnam era veterans. They are most deserving of the praise and tribute of a grateful nation for a job well done under very trying circumstances.







SCOTT STEVENS, ALASKA  
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.  
JAMES A. MC CLURE, IDAHO  
PAUL LAXALT, NEV.  
JAKE GARN, UTAH  
HARRISON SCHMITT, N. MEX.  
THAD COCHRAN, MISS.  
MARK ANDREWS, N. DAK.  
JAMES ABDNOR, S. DAK.  
ROBERT W. KASTEN, JR., WIS.  
ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, N.Y.  
MACK MATTINGLY, GA.  
WARREN RUDMAN, N.H.  
ARLEN SPECTER, PA.

WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WIS.  
JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.  
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.  
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII  
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, S.C.  
THOMAS F. EAGLETON, MO.  
LAWTON CHILES, FLA.  
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LA.  
WALTER D. HUDDLESTON, KY.  
QUENTIN N. BURDICK, N. DAK.  
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT.  
JIM SASSER, TENN.  
DENNIS DE CONCINI, ARIZ.  
DALE BUMPERS, ARK.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

# COPY

April 23, 1981

Mr. Jerry E. Yates  
Director, Communication  
and Public Relations  
Vietnam Veterans Foundation  
P.O. Box 1544  
Washington, D.C. 20013

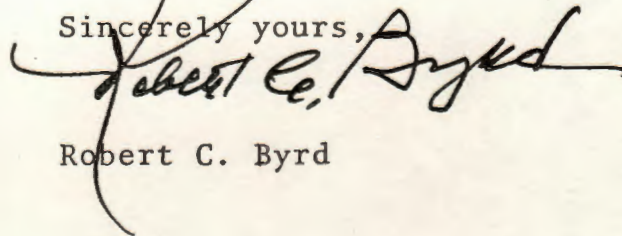
Dear Mr. Yates:

Thank you for your letter extending an invitation to me to open the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Weekend which your Foundation is coordinating for June 6 and 7 at Summit Point Racetrack in Charlestown, West Virginia.

I appreciate your interest in writing to me regarding this occasion. After reviewing my calendar, I find that I have a previous commitment to be in the state on June 6th; however, I would be pleased to participate in the festivities on June 7th. I will contact you at a later date concerning the details of my visit. Thank you, again, for inviting me to join you for this important recognition of our Vietnam veterans. I look forward to seeing you on June 7th.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Byrd

RCB:ph